



THE ARMY'S DISABLED SOLDIER SUPPORT SYSTEM (DS3)





Agenda



- Who are we serving?
- What are we doing for them?
- Why are we serving them?

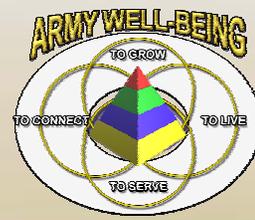


“The Army Team includes the family members of our Soldiers and civilians, as well as our veterans and retirees.”

– FM 1



Who We Are Serving



Severely Disabled: Soldiers who have received a disability rating of 30% or greater and Special Category as a result of injuries or illness incurred since 11 Sep 01.

Disability Categories

- Severe injury, such as loss of sight or limb
- Permanent and unsightly disfigurement of a portion of the body normally exposed to view (*such as burns*)
- Incurable and fatal disease and has limited life expectancy
- Established psychiatric condition
- May require extensive medical treatment and hospitalization
- Released from the service under provisions of AR 635-40 for a psychiatric condition.
- Paralyzed AR 40-400, Ch 6



What We Are Doing for Them: The Army's Disabled Soldier Support System



Mission:

The Army provides its severely disabled Soldiers and their families with a system of advocacy and follow-up to provide personal support that assists them in their transition from military service into the civilian community.





Concept of the Operation



- Incorporates and integrates programs to provide holistic support services for our severely disabled Soldiers and their families
- Continuous advocacy, from initial casualty notification through return to home station and/or final destination
- Provides a system to monitor, track and provide appropriate assistance through an array of service providers beyond medical retirement
- Centralized managed system at Department of the Army Headquarters with Regional DS3 coordinators
- Facilitate communications with severely disabled Soldiers through pertinent local and/or Federal and national agencies and organizations





Transition Phases for Disabled Soldiers



Phase I – Notification & Evacuation

- Enters medical treatment channels
- Notification to Primary Next of Kin
- DS3 needs assessment begins
- Evacuation to Medical Treatment Facility

Phase II – Medical Care & Board Evaluation

- Focus on medical treatment
- Fitness for duty and disability decisions
- Initial contact with Department of Veterans Affairs
- Veteran Service Organization sponsors available to assist
- Soldier is medically retired or returned to limited active duty

Phase III – Retirement Well-Being

30 days:

- Sponsor unit visit
- Needs re-assessment
- Advocacy as required

120 – 180 days:

- Sponsor unit follow-up visit
- Goal: Soldiers who are able are enrolled in school or employed

- *Transition to "hometown" VSO sponsorship*
- *Enrollment in DVA medical care*
- *Vocational Rehabilitation according to ability and desire*
- *Employment placement facilitation*

Facilitates Transition and Feedback → Does not Replace DVA Role

- *Periodic follow-up**
- *Minimum of 5 years*
- *Contributing member of the community*

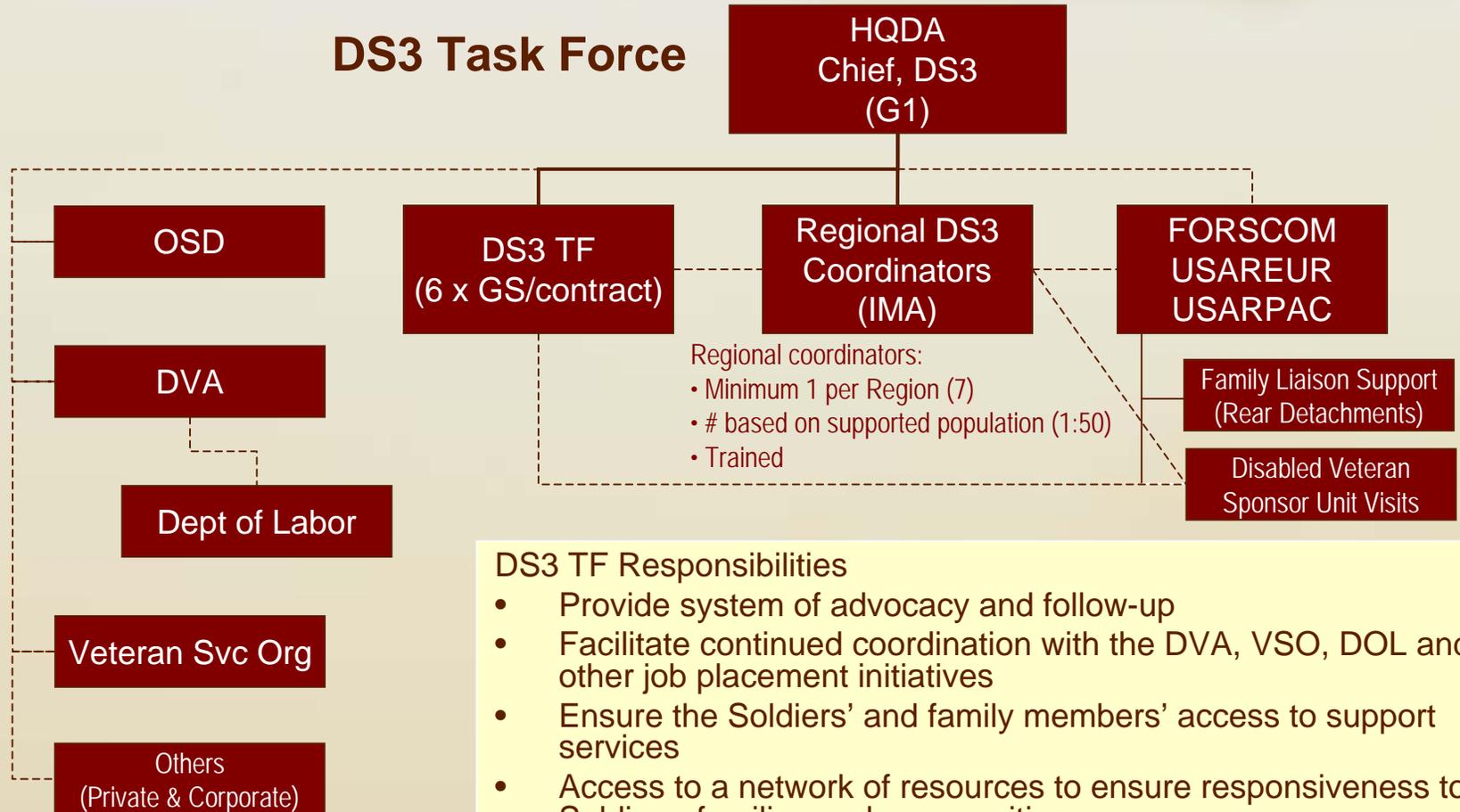
* Planned telephonic contact at 3,6,9,12,18,24 months, then annually



How We Are Organized to Serve Them



DS3 Task Force





Sponsor Program



- Voluntary opportunity for connection with VSO or Soldiers' choosing
- MTF admin personnel facilitate the connection
 - As early as possible
 - Not to interfere with medical treatment or recovery
- Information (*flyer*) furnished on selected VSOs, enable Soldier (or family member) to make an informed choice
- Soldier completes voluntary participation form and returns to MTF admin personnel
- MTF admin personnel contact VSO national headquarters and relays Soldier contact information
- VSO contacts Soldier and arranges meeting
- VSO representative conducts “needs analysis” at first meeting and tailors sponsorship to individual Soldier needs and wants
- VSO representative arranges for “hometown” VSO continued sponsorship



DS3 Web Page



Army Families Online by WBLO

http://www.wblo.org/data/modules/pbm/rendered/disabled_soldier_support - Google

Army Families Online

Provided by: Well-Being Liaison Office (WBLO)

Army Information Line 1-800-833-6622

- My WBLO
 - Home
 - Registration
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 - Search
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- WBLO Information
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 - Disabled Soldier Support System (DS3)
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Homeland Security Advisory System

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

Disabled Soldier Support System

Contact the Disabled Soldier Support System (DS3) at 1-800-833-6622 between 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. EST, Monday through Friday.

[Visit Army Families Online](#)

DS3 Program Overview

On April 30, 2004, the Department of the Army introduced a Disabled Soldier Support System (DS3) Initiative that provides its severely disabled Soldiers and their families with a system of advocacy and follow-up with personal support to assist them as they transition from military service to the civilian community.

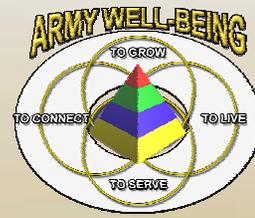
[More...](#)



The Army's Disabled Soldier Support System (DS3)



What Can You Do?



- Assist DS3 Coordinators with advocacy
- Make personal visits to DS3 Soldiers and families
- Leverage your knowledge of employment opportunities and vocational resources on behalf of DS3 Soldiers
- Influence governmental and legislative decisionmakers to ensure that DS3 Soldiers will not be forgotten over time
- Get the word out and help ensure that soldiers, families, employers, and civic organizations understand what DS3 is designed to do and how to contact us to obtain, or offer, assistance.



DS3....Taking Care of Our Own



- Who are we serving? America's heroes—soldiers who faithfully rallied to the colors, stood in harm's way, and now warrant the utmost level of support we can offer.
- How are we serving them? By committing the resources to ensure that the Army will provide personal advocacy and follow-up to each of them as they transition from military service and into the civilian community.
- Why are we serving them? Because it is our privilege.



*Keeping the Army's
commitment to its people
balanced with its expectations
of its people.*

